

From: Lawrence, Mark S.
To: Schuyler, Ridge; Cage, Ericke
Sent: Fri Mar 19 10:47:29 2010
Subject: Health Reform Package

Ridge and Ericke, good morning. I know that you both are slammed right now about the upcoming Health Reform package vote. I've tried to call over the past couple of days but the phone lines are buzzing, so I've elected the email route.

I know this issue is a very difficult vote for Congressman Perriello. We really appreciated his leadership last summer in voting for the initial House package, and while the bill was not perfect (by any means), it helped keep the issue alive and on track for further development.

Earlier this morning, I updated Dr. Ed Murphy, our President and CEO, on the Health Reform vote. He asked me to make sure to let Tom know that he views this as the singular most significant issue Carilion has faced in the past decade, and if the reform bill fails now, we won't see another legitimate opportunity for reforming a "broken" system for many years.

The system "as is" is unsustainable, and we feel that the proposal now before the Congress provides a framework for change that is doable and that can work. As we have discussed previously, we are very supportive of this legislation. Again, while not perfect, it provides a framework to build upon.

I know you're balancing many, many views on this, and that it's a volatile issue within the Fifth District. However, at the end of the day, while a tough vote, it's also a tremendous opportunity to improve our healthcare delivery system and make fundamental changes for the long term. Congressman Perriello has already demonstrated courage and vision in his earlier vote. Dr. Murphy asked me to convey his unwavering support of the package and hope that Tom will endorse it when it comes to a vote this weekend.

If you would pass our comments on to the Congressman, we would be most appreciative. Should you have questions or need to reach me, or, if Tom would like to discuss this with Ed, please let me know and I'll make it happen.

And, THANKS AGAIN for all that you are doing.

Best regards,
Mark

Mark S. Lawrence
Vice President- Governmental and External Affairs
Carilion Clinic